

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 04346 101526Z POSS DUPE
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
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O R 101443Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 504
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS ATHENS 4346

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, GR, US
SUBJECT: REACTION TO CARAMANLIS MEETINGS IN LONDON

REF: ATHENS 4287 (NOTAL)

1. THE ROUND OF TALKS WHICH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS HELD
YESTERDAY IN LONDON WITH CLARK CLIFFORD AND WESTERN EUROPEAN
LEADERS RECEIVED HEAVY COVERAGE IN GREECE TODAY (MAY 10). THE
MEDIA ACCENTED THE POSITIVE RESULTS OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S
CONTACTS WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI
WHO WERE SAID TO HAVE RENEWED THEIR POLITICAL COMMITMENT TO
GREECE'S ENTRY INTO THE EC. SPECIAL MENTION WAS MADE THAT
PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT EANES, ACCORDING O GREEK SOURCES, AGREED
THAT GREECE SHOULD PRECEDE PORTUGAL INTO THE EC.

2. PROMINENT PLAY WAS ALSO ACCORDED TO CARAMANLIS-CLIFFORD SESSION.
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A GREEK GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN, COMMENTING ON THE MEETING, SAID THAT
MR CLIFFORD HAD THE IMPRESSION SLIGHT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE WITH
RESPECT TO CYPRUS AND GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS SINCE HIS VISIT
TO ATHENS, WHEREAS THE PRIME MINISTER THROUGHT THE SITUATION
HAD REMAINED UNCHANGED

3. THE PRESS, REPORTING ON TTE CARAMANLIS-CLIFFORD MEETING,

DESCRIBED IT AS PREPARATORY FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S ENCOUNTER THIS MORNING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, AT WHICH MR CLIFFORD WOULD ALSO BE PRESENT. REPEATING THE LINE THAT THERE WERE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION BETWEEN CARAMANLIS AND CLIFFORD OVER WHETHER OR NOT THERE HAD BEEN POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE AND ON GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS, THE PRESS QUOTED "AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC SOURCES" AS SAYING MR CLIFFORD MAY UNDERTAKE A NEW ROUND OF VISITS TO ATHENS, ANKARA AND NICOSIA. TWO NEWSPAPERS INDICATED THAT THE US WAS PRESSING FOR A JOINT GREEK-TURKISH EXPLOATION VENTURE IN THE AEGEAN AS AN INTERIM SOLUTION TO THE CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE.

4. THE COMMUNIST PRESS EMPHASIZED THAT THE LONDON MEETINGS WERE DESIGNED TO ENGINEER THE RETURN OF GREECE TO NATO THROUGH "PRESSURES" AND "AMERICAN, NATO BLACKMAIL." PRO-MOSCOW RIZOSPASTIS (KKE-EXTERIOR) CLAIMED IN ITS EDITORIAL THAT CARAMANLIS WOULD SELL OUT GREEK NATIONAL INTERESTS IN LONDON. MORE MODERATE AVGHI (KKE-INTERIOR) SPOKE OF FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENTS ON EC ENTRY, BUT WARNED THAT THE US WOULD ATTEMPT TO "BLACKMAIL" GREECE INTO REJOINING THE NATO STRUCTURE

5. AS A RELATED SECONDARY ITEM, THE MEDIA ALSO NOTED THE PRESENCE OF TURKISH PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL IN LONDON. MANY REPORTS ALLEGED THAT DEMIREL WOULD COMPLAIN TO THE US AND OTHER ALLIES ABOUT THE LACK OF SUPPORT FOR TURKEY THROUGH MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. IN THIS CONTEXT THERE WAS ALSO DISPARAGING COMMENTARY ALONG THE LINE THAT DEMIREL, BECAUSE OF THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS IN TURKEY, WAS IN A DIFFICULT BARGAINING POSITION IN LONDON DUE TO HIS OWN UNCERTAIN POLITICAL FUTURE
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6. LAST MINUTE RADIO REPORTS DESCRIBE THE MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS EARLIER TODAY AS "VERY FRIENDLY" AND "USEFUL," IN THE WORDS OF CARAMANLIS. THE PRIME MINISTER IS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT THEY HAD REVIEWED US-GREEK BILATERAL ISSUES AND EXPRESSED THE DESIRE TO PROMOTE RELATIONS FURTHER. IN ADDITION, HE SAID, THEY HAD DISCUSSED ISSUES OF INTEREST TO GREECE AND FOUND THAT THERE WERE NO SERIOUS DIFFERENCES IN THEIR ASSESSMENTS.
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